

MASSACHUSETTS

PLoughman.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH

MARKET STREET, WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

VOL. 8.

PUBLISHED BY
W. & W. J. BUCKMINSTER.

Two \$2.00 in advance; if payment is ~~sure~~
surely delayed \$2.50 will be charged.

Deacon Moses Grant, of Boston, made some interesting remarks on the Farm school established for boys on the Island. There are now 90 boys all in good health. They have had no sickness. Thousands of boys come to Boston to be run, when they might have health and competence on farms.

Mr. J. C. Gray made some good remarks on early education. A new establishment—a College—could not be got up without cost. Perhaps some may be grafted on our old Colleges. Mr. G. remembered that 40 years ago there was a book published on farming by one Adams, but he could not tell the name of the book. [It was the Medical and Agricultural Register, published by Daniel Adams M. D., Ed.]

He seemed to think that such a book would do much good. He had formerly taken the New England Farmer, but there was danger of being led astray by it. He had not forgotten the recommendation he saw to bore holes in books and fill up with brimstone in order to poison the insects that harbored in the branches.

He remarked how surprised he was to find how much farmers actually know when you can persuade them to be communicative. He was not aware that they knew so much. [Probably Mr. Gray had an impression that most of our knowledge of farming is derived from foreign books. Ed.]

Wm. Buckminster, editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman, asked leave to speak for five minutes.

He said he should not have risen for the remarks that had been made in the Agricultural Papers. These papers have been spoken of in a contemptuous manner and he thought it his duty to rise in the next meeting of that body such measures as they may devise.

He said he was for good education in all its branches. Our system of government is founded on the principle that it is basic.

The blind, and the dumb are educated, and the insane are cared for. All of us are in favor of improvement, and all missions should be supported.

Normal schools are now generally popular, though they were once much opposed.

Some thought the young farmer got his knowledge from his father. Much may be learned from him, but it is important that his knowledge should be accurate. Much is learnt wrong and we are obliged to go back. Why should not the farmer be educated that he can proceed at once with private information? He thought there was no reason why so much science can be carried on farming. Farmers should be acquainted with the writings of Sir Humphry Davy and others in England. Why should not all young farmers have the means of acquiring this knowledge?

He then took a different view of the subject. He does not seem to believe that you can make a farmer in a College in two, or even three years. He lives in a town where numbers obtain their living by farming, and where ninety papers a week have been taken from one press. People there are as simple as to make, in great numbers, these papers that are so much in the notice of one gentleman who now advocates the expenditure of half a million annually to maintain an Agricultural College. He prefers the College in France, and stated the annual cost at \$600,000.

Mr. B. said he could name another town, almost as rich, Boston as Braintree, is, where more than 200 Agricultural papers are taken weekly from a single press here. Two hundred families, in one town 20 miles west of us, are simple enough to patronize a single paper that is almost the notice of one gentleman present, who would bring up nine men to farming in College.

A Boston gentleman has just said that farmers ought to understand the science of Botany. He states that it is the work of a lifetime to understand that single branch. And yet he seems to suppose that a scientific farmer, who should understand many branches, may be made in a very few years in a College. He asked why farmers could not all proceed as scientifically as Mr. Plimley. He was answered that all could not live by making ornamental hedges; the greenest is far the best. I am with him that when stones for walls are scarce, apple trees for a hedge are worth twice as much as thorns; and if we have a farm hedge for fence, it would be far the cheapest, for after they are high enough to crop, say five feet, and been cropped a year or two, the cattle would maintain them, by doing all the necessary cropping, as they do their pastures.

He never sees any in the last paper that has been taken in this State, I have seen those managed in the way I have mentioned in other States, that answered a valuable purpose—through which no cattle, sheep or horses could pass or break over. A—A—would ask why apples may not be planted on the top of soil or mud fences, which seem not to make an efficient or lasting fence, occasionally by time soon wash away.

The use of these hedges would prevent this washing down, and prevent cattle from passing over. We set thorns, and I have seen sometimes apple-trees for hedges placed, only about one foot apart; but perhaps a larger distance would be better. Yours,

Hamilton, April 9. C.

INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

That a great improvement has taken place among the agricultural population of the United States within the past ten or fifteen years, but more particularly in the eastern and middle sections, is a fact which I believe will not be denied.

To what is this improvement chiefly to be attributed? To the influence of agricultural periodicals, and to the influence of agricultural papers.

Agriculture, although one of the noblerst of callings, has been in times past greatly neglected.

Lake many occupations which a subsistence may be obtained without much exercise of the mind, it began to be taken for granted that the exercise of the mind was not required, and was a matter of but little importance.

Men farmed as their grandfathers had farmed, had a century before them. Agriculture was not improved, and men were still, or retrograded.

Land was worn out by bad tillage; and most of those who could escape from the plough, left their homes to seek an employment by which more money could be made with less physical labor.

Here and there a man was to be met with who had become rich through trade or commerce, and had returned to a farm; but that was not long enough. They have a sheep farm and a Veterinary establishment.

At the present time, the price of grass seed is unusually high, and those who have to pay for it are likely to incur a heavy loss.

We think that many have failed to obtain good crops of grass by not sowing seed enough. When we send down we usually expect to gather at least two or three crops from that seed, and if the withholding of a few pounds or a few seeds of seed will materially diminish the annual product for several years, we think it may be, it is certainly not good economy to withhold it.

Let us glance at some of the benefits arising from these papers. I know not how other minds may view it, but for myself I may safely say, that as a practical farmer, the opportunity afforded for the interchange of thought, through agricultural papers, is one of the greatest enjoyments I have. I welcome the monthly receipt of my paper with no common interest, for friends of the same kind are all worthy of consideration, and although they may not all be adapted to the particular situation in which we may reside, they will be found to be of value to us all.

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But we seldom find patriots ready to do *anything* for them. Young men are invited to leave the city and go to farming. But the laws hold out no inducement. Every rod of land may be taken from an unfortunate farmer, or execution; and he may be turned into the street—pig, and heow down. These are exempt from execution, and may even be turned into the street—pig, and heow down. The farmer is a man whose business is *at* home; he can wander but little, but it does not follow that he may be ignorant. Since by a cheerful fit of writing, he takes his paper in hand and begins his *travels*. As one time he is among the best farms of New England, and in western New York—then with the rapidity of the magnetic telegraph, he visits the western and southern states. For the trifling expense of a dollar or two a year, he becomes familiar with almost every portion of the Union.

There is a sociability too, so to speak, about agricultural papers, which is truly delightful. They are not only with their editors, but with a hundred others. In some remote district, where perhaps most of those around you have not yet awakened to the importance of *book* farming, and are looking with doubts and misgivings upon your mode of farming, it is indeed, truly delightful to hold

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BOSTON, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL

CORRESPONDENCE.

[For the Ploughman.]

CUTTING AND PRESERVING SCIONS.

Mr. Editor.—I feel it incumbent on me to add my testimonial in relation to the cutting, and mode of preserving scions, in addition to the many communications on the subject published in the Ploughman. It has been said that scions may be cut February and in March, as there is more leisure time; true they may. But for my like I can see no advantage in cutting thus early, for many people find it difficult to preserve them in a healthy condition when cut.

Having had more than thirty years experience in the art of grafting (in which I profess some skill at least) and the culture of fruit trees, I am confident that no place can be found where they can be kept so secure as that where they grow; care being taken to cut them before the buds are much swollen; I have tried various experiments to preserve them when cut early; I have buried them in the ground, and one of these was buried in New England, but there was no work left to do. I do not consider the best mode; for, if they are kept in the ground for two or three weeks, they become heated and not one in a hundred will germinate. My method, invariably, has been to dry them for a few days, then change the cloth, and put the cut end into a vessel, and make it moderately six or eight hours, when it must be taken out, then cut and split horizontally with a thumb; when are we to do by and by? is a question sometimes asked by farmers of these parts. How are we to compete with the great West? Railroads and canals are multiplying facilities are becoming greater every day for bringing produce from those markets to our ports. They can raise everything cheaper than we can. What are we to do? Not sit down and mourn over our fate—not sell our farms and leave them to the world—but when we have a good work to do, Railroads and canals of shielded corn where we formerly had 20, raise 2 tons of hay where we used to grow one; keep 10 cows, and good ones too, and keep them well, when we formerly did 5.

We may not be able to do so this year, or next, but begin the good work and it will not be many years before we can. Industry, science, economy—must be brought to aid in the fulfillment of our purpose.

Who are the men destined to rise in the agricultural world? I answer, those who work hard, and are not afraid to do so. Those who when the farmer must think, if he work ever so hard with his hands, if he work not with his head too, will find his intelligent neighbor far outstripping him, with half the physical labor he exerts. And these men, so wise in their own conceit as to suppose that they can learn nothing from a book or paper, on farming, will discover their error, perhaps too late to retrieve it. H. C. W., Putnam Valley, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1849. [Albany Cultivator.]

[CEPHAS SULLARD, Franklin, April 12.]

[For the Ploughman.]

RAISING THORN HEDGES.

Mr. Editor.—Your correspondent S. T. C. wishes to raise a hedge of hawthorn from the seed, he will find the seeds will not vegetate until the second season after planting. I have several times planted the seed in autumn, and in no case did any of it grow in the succeeding spring, but came up the spring after.

I should prefer the buckthorn to the Virginia, as it is a more rapid grower, and hedge for a few years ago of the latter, I have found the cropping biennially, and even annually, more labor and expense than maintaining a rail fence—especially as the cropping must be attended to in a very busy season; consequently, the trees were ultimately allowed to grow high and shade the ground—blackberry vines grew and spread out from the hedge, and it became a very unprofitable fence. The buckthorn has sometimes done well, when we have cut out the account of the expense of cropping.

For ornamental hedges the greenest is far the best. I am with him that when stones for walls are scarce, apple trees for a hedge are worth twice as much as thorns; and if we have a farm hedge for fence, it would be far the cheapest, for after they are high enough to crop, say five feet, and been cropped a year or two, the cattle would maintain them, by doing all the necessary cropping, as they do their pastures.

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21, 1849.

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NO. 20.

LADIES' SWEETING APPLES. Some time since we had occasion to notice this fine apple and to speak of its growth in New York, in terms of its size and its quality, and one did then know that it had been fruit in this vicinity, and could not therefore, so confidently recommend it for cultivation; but we have since ascertained that it is cultivated in North Brookfield, where it sustains the same high character as in New York, of being the *very best* and one of the most productive of all sweet winter apples. We have just been eating one from N. H., and we have never before eaten a sweet apple, at this season of the year, that has compared with it for flavor. Its flesh is very tender, juicy, and honeyed in sweetness and with a high and fine perfume. It is moreover an apple of great beauty, being mostly of a brilliant red on a bright yellow ground. We are assured that it is exceedingly productive, and profitable for culture. It certainly must be a capital market fruit. [Worcester Spy.]

POPOULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

At one of the recent meetings at the State House, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder made the following statements.

Much disappointment has been experienced by selecting varieties from their high sounding names and novelty, rather than from any known superiority of character. To avoid this previous error, and in compliance with frequent requests, I submit a list in the various classes of fruit, exhibiting the best adapted to our climate, and to the taste of our citizens.

APPLES.

For three varieties add: Williams, Fall Harvey, Baldwin.

For six varieties add: Williams, Fall Harvey, Baldwin, Hubbardton Nonpareil, Roxbury Russet, Red Anthon's Yellow, Damer's Winter Sweet, Dauphine Winter, Old Island Greening.

For twelve varieties add: Williams, Fall Harvey, Baldwin, Hubbardton Nonpareil, Roxbury Russet, Red Anthon's Yellow, Damer's Winter Sweet, Seaver Sweet, Tolman Sweet.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 1849.

William Buckminster, Editor.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

In another column will be found the latest news from the European world. No great changes have taken place since our last account. Russia is threatening to regulate all matters by force of arms. But France remains quiet, and we think she is in a very safe way. She wants only time to bring the new government to open, as perfectly as the best patriots have hoped.

The New President Napoleon is much more a man than the public have supposed from information through the medium of the English press. Americans should be cautious how they read the lucubrations of the advocates of monarchy when the subject is a form of government different from their own.

The bare name of Napoleon is sufficient to create a fever in the minds of most English writers, and we must not look for the most candid statements to the men who are fully satisfied that their own government is "the perfection of human wisdom."

Louis Napoleon Bonaparte is not so small a man after all as English writers would represent him. He is not an orator, and probably, not a scientific politician; but he seems to possess much of an article which is wanting in many minds—he has a good share of common sense.

He has travelled much, and has, in adversity, become acquainted with mankind. He may yet do more for France than a more brilliant man.

The world is not so much in want of great geniuses to manage public affairs as it is of integrity and fairness. A quibbler is not wanted in France, to search the constitution for a clause that puts all power into the hands of one man.

It may be well for that country that she has not a genius at the head, who may be able to prove the new constitution to be only a rope of sand.

THE WEATHER. We have had a cold turn since our last writing, and one more questions the fact. No weather seems more unpleasant than a northwester, blowing very strong in April from hills covered with snow.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.—In Common Council following letter from Preston Taylor, in reply to an invitation to visit Boston, was read:

Wardington, April 17, 1849.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 7th inst., communicating the invitation of the Municipal Government of Boston to visit that city at my earliest convenience.

The English funds are again on the advance, and consuls have risen one eighth per cent during the past two weeks, having fluctuated to 934 on the 2d, to 92 and 921/2 on the 5th, at which they closed for money and account.

EMIGRANTS TO CALIFORNIA. A letter to the St. Louis Republican from St. Joseph, Mo., dated the 2d instant, says all the towns in that vicinity are so crowded that it was with great difficulty the new comers could obtain quarters. Some occupy wagons, others out houses. The writer says the Plains cannot be traversed before the first of May, and that already 2,500 have arrived in those quarters. More are continually coming.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.—Officers of the Customs. Philip Greely, Jr., Collector for the district of Boston, Mass. Samuel J. Peters, Collector for the district of New Orleans, La. Benjamin S. Hawley, Collector for the district of Apalachee, Fla.

Philip Howe, Naval Officer for the district of New Orleans. Robert B. Stille, Naval Officer for the district of New Orleans.

John J. Garcia, Surveyor of the port of New Orleans.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—J. Prentiss Hall, of New York, to be Attorney of the United States for the Southern district of New Orleans. Charles Bingham, of Alabama, to be Marshal of the United States for the Southern district of Alabama. [Washington Whig.

FRANCE.—We have received from Mr. Ephraim Woods, of Salem, some fine specimens of the Damer's Winter Sweet Apples. We procured them last season of the best trees that we have seen. They were taken up as well as we should have done it ourselves.

FRANCE.—Say Railway Station, not depot.—This is the time here now, and we like it. Station is truly English, but depot is not. The French always drop the *l* in *depot*, and we have a fair right to drop the *wh*. Let us say Station.

COWS FOR SALE. Two or three good cows may be had at reasonable prices at the farm of the editor in Framingham. Also three half blood bulls of the North Devon stock.

LEGISLATURE.—The legislature is still in session. These cold winds are a most serious obstacle to seasonal adjustments. Warm weather is much wanted in Boston.

LEGISLATURE.—The legislature has decided, by a close vote, to reject the bill providing for Bank Commissioners.

THOMAS J. MORE.—Thomas J. More of Sherburne has appointed by the Governor and Council a Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex.

THOMAS MITICK.—S. Silas Mitick, Esq., and Abijah Ellis, Esq., of Hopkinton have been appointed Justices of the Peace, in and for the County of Middlesex.

LEGISLATURE.—We learn that on Thursday morning a brakeman was instantly killed, on a freight train, a little this side of Shirley. His head struck against a bridge. His name is Jenkins.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—We have to record another terrible explosion, by which three persons lost their lives. The harbor job-boat Champion, Capt. Brown while rounding out from what No. 6, above the flat-bottom landing, Secondo Municipal wharf, all three persons, three members of the socialist seize the occasion to excite the people that a vast majority of the French people will support the cause of order, and that very small number of Federalists will be elected to the new Chamber. At any rate, the socialists are going to the streets to call out their anger, and to the insanity of the accused, which has been hinted at, and his accusation, that he had been untrue to him, we know nothing authentic, nor is it just to set down aught against the supposed guilty, which has not a good foundation, previous to his trial. We must willingly close this brief account, and trust that this crime will not be lost upon the community, but will cause others to reflect how from virtue and uprightness it is possible that a man little by little can be led into crime and murder. Mrs. Pearson was thirty-four years of age. [Evening Gazette.

FRANCE.—With some exceptional disturbance in the distant provinces, France continues tranquil, and Louis Napoleon is proceeding in the surest path to maintain his position, by instantly suppressing domestic disorder, and by steadily avoiding foreign entanglements, and by uniting with the continental nations. Notwithstanding the excitement attempted to be excited by the Red Republicans, upon the question of Piedmont, Louis Napoleon and his Ministry set their faces against an armed intervention, for the purpose of preventing that which nobody contemplates, the dismemberment of Sardinia, so that men of all parties in England consider that a great step has been made towards the pacification of the Sardinian question, as the exemplary model of a just and peaceful government. The locomotive was badly broken, but no one was injured. The passenger train was delayed by the accident. [Springfield Republican.

LETTER OF COL. FREMONT.—Washington, April 13, 1849. Mr. Bent has received a letter from Col. Fremont, detailing the details of his journey over the Rocky Mountains.

The accounts already published scarcely come up to the horrid depicted by Col. Fremont. The number of deaths is, however, not quite so large.

Col. Fremont throws the whole blame upon the ignorance of the guide, a man who bore the high character, and who had been guide for years for Gov. Dix. The guide, however, became completely bewildered. He tried to party by a route which should only have required three days travelling, but occupied a much longer time; and through his ignorance or carelessness, they had to retrace their steps amid dreadful privations and loss of life, the guide suffering as much as any one.

PORTLAND.—We learn from the Portland Advertiser that the two branches of the City Government met in Committee, and that a majority of the members, Dr. C. H. Cushing, who, for Mayor of that city for the ensuing year. Dr. Cushing had eighteen votes, Edward Fox ten, and Neal Dow one.

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TWENTY-ONE DAYS LATER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—We are indebted to our esteemed fellow-citizens, Henry N. Hooper, Esq., for a second letter from his brother, William Hooper, Esq., a partner in one of the principal mercantile houses of San Francisco. This letter bears date twenty-one days later than any published accounts from San Francisco. It will be seen that Gen. Smith, the new military commander in California, had arrived in San Francisco, and been waiting for the golden influx from the "diggings." The writer confirms the statements made in his letter of Jan. 20th from San Francisco. The letter came by the way of Mazatlan, Vera Cruz and New Orleans, and bears date:

San Francisco, (U. S.) Feb. 28th, 1849.

A brig sails to-morrow for Mazatlan, affording the opportunity of dropping you a line announcing to you the arrival of the California steamer from Panama. She brings a large mail, but no letters for me. I hope you are aware, that we have not a post office in the Post Office for me any day, and it will come on sale. I suggest that you write once a month—the day before the steamer sails.

France remains quiet; but how she will endure the spectacle of the overthrow of liberalism in Italy, and the triumphant march of the Austrian armies in the South, remains to be seen. Louis Bonaparte appears to struggle hard for the maintenance of a pacific policy. A war, perhaps, would be of little avail to him.

In England, the Navigation bill continues to occupy the attention of Parliament. Its fate is still uncertain.

The affairs of Germany assume an aspect of increased interest. The Diet of Frankfort has offered the crown of the empire to the Emperor of Austria. This measure appears to be highly unpalatable to Austria, who will hardly submit quietly to a proceeding which thoroughly upsets the balance of power in the Germanic states.

The Hungarians continue to give full employment to the Austrian armies. The war has abated none of its fury.

At present flour is \$12.50 per bushel.

THE POETS' CORNER.

Hood's poem of the Golden Egg of Miss Killian seems to have been written with prophetic allusion to the present age of gold; the following speaks the condition of nearly all the inhabitants of California:

THE GOLDEN AGE.

Gold! and gold! and gold without end!
He had gold to lay by, and gold to spend,
Gold to give, and gold to lend,
And reversions of gold in future.
In wealth the family revel'd and rold,
Himself and wife and sons so bold—
And his daughters sang to their harps of gold
"O teles eti del' oro!"
Gold! and gold! and nothing but gold!
The same surfeited shells behold
Wherever the eye could settle!
On the wall—the sideboard—the ceiling—sky—
On the gorgious footstools standing by—
In coats to delight a mimic's eye
With teams of the precious metal.
Gold! and gold! the new and the old!
The company ate and drank from gold,
They revel'd, they sang, and were merry,
And one of the Gold Sticks rose from his chair,
And toasted "the lass with the golden hair!"
In a bumper of golden sherry.
Gold! still gold! it rained on the morn,
Who, unlike Danse, was none the worse;
There was nothing but guineas glistening!
Fifty were given to Doctor James,
For calling the little baby names,
And for saying Amen!
The Clerk had ten,
And that was the end of the christening.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Early Scenes in the Valley of the Housatonic.

A stranger, passing through the valley of Berkshire, Massachusetts, and observing the succession of beautiful and opulent villages from its southern to its northern limit, was struck with the beauty that hardly a year ago it was an unbroken wilderness. Before that time no European had penetrated its depths. It was the home of the fierce Red Men, descendants of the tribe of the Mohegans, or Mukheukawas, which signifies, "people of the great waters, continually in motion." They were scattered along the banks of the Housatonic, to the number, probably, of two thousand. The place now called Stockbridge, was the residence of their chief. Here, in stated periods, most of the tribe gathered to hold their Councils and to celebrate the War Dance. Here, also, they offered sacrifices to the Great Spirit. The valley is composed of large rocks that crown a towering, precipitous mount, which overlooks the picturesque valley and the beautiful stream that winds caressingly near its base, and which commands a broad view of the irregularly grouped hills, and the blue robed mountains, that stretch far away in the distance.

Wild as the game they chased, and untrained as the winds that swept over their hills, the savages knew no master. They had heads, no names, and they had no sense of the pale faces that dwelt near the great waters; but they felt no dread. Their superstitions taught them to believe that the wings of the Great Spirit would overshadow them, and secure to them the possessions inherited from their fathers.

In process of time, however, a few fearless descendants of the Pilgrims, from the East, explored these their solitudes, and selected places for future settlements. The Indians at first regarded the settlers as intruders. The spirit of hostility was strong, and was manifested by the kind manners and honorable dealings of the English emigrants. They came, they said, not to wage war with them, nor to take away their lands, but to live with them as brethren, and to give them ample equivalents for the territory they might occupy. The Chief of the tribe listened favorably to these representations, and shortly after avowed his belief in the Christian faith. This remarkable event suggested to the pious Puritans the project of christianizing these wild sons of the forest, by establishing schools, and by sending them to their schools. Application was accordingly made to the State government, then in the hands of the English; and after various delays, the Legislature at length, in 1737, granted "that a meeting house, together with a school house, should be built for the Indians, at the charge of the Province." But the funds of the Puritans were low, and strenuous efforts were made to increase them by private subscription. This mission attracted great attention, and, in consequence, the wants of the Indians were soon supplied by the auspices of the celebrated Dr. Isaac Watts. A respectable sum was raised, to which the Prince of Wales contributed twenty guineas. Although interrupted by the French War, and subsequent hostile incursions of the northern Indians, this noble enterprise was eminently prosperous. The interests, temporal and spiritual, of the Red Men, were not only promoted by the labors of Sergeant, Woodbridge, Edwards, West and others, but the habits and characters of contemporaneous English settlers and their descendants.

Notwithstanding, however, the most skillful efforts to christianize them, there were several of the Indians who cherished hostile feelings towards the emigrants. These feelings were fomented by the Orondock tribe living near Schaghticoke, and who were in the service of the French. But the greater part of the Mohegans (afterwards called the Stockbridge tribe) were friendly to the English, and but few of the hostile or French Indians, had intercourse with them, which was carried on through their agents. Application was accordingly made to the State government, then in the hands of the English; and after various delays, the Legislature at length, in 1737, granted "that a meeting house, together with a school house, should be built for the Indians, at the charge of the Province."

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